(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Dattopant Bapurao Thengadi and Shri Sidh Raj Dhadda whose names were announced on 26th January, 2003, have declined to accept the Padma Bhushan Award.

**Arrest of yourftj-children under POTA**

2216. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) is it true even young children are being arrested under POTA in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, has the Ministry of Home Affairs asked from State Governments the basis of these arrests; and

(c) how many minors have been arrested under POTA in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Government of Jharkhand has intimated that two cases involving persons aged 17 years and 18 years have been registered under the POTA, 2002. The implementation of the POTA, 2002 is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the details of the persons arrested under the Act throughout the country are not centrally maintained in this ministry.

**Population**

†2217. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of the country at the time of independence alongwith the total ratio of minorities out of the same;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) population of the country at present;

(c) the ratio of minorities out of the same; and

(d) the reason for decrease or increase in the population of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The first census that was undertaken in the country after the indepenence was the 1951 census. A statement showing the relevant data for 1951 census is laid on the Table of the House, *{see* below)

(b) The population of the country at present is not available. However, the provisional total population of the country as on 1st March, 2001 based on Census of India 2001 is 1,027,015,247.

(c) Not presently available.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

***Statement***

*Total population, population by religion and their proportion to total population as per 1951 Census*

| Total Muslims | Hindus Christians | Population | Sikhs Buddhists | Jan | Olher religions & Persuasions & Religion not stated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 8 |
| 356,879,394 | 303,186,996 | | 6219,134 | | 1,618,406(0.45) |
| 35,400,117(9.93) | 8,157,765 (100.00) | | 180,767(050) | | 1,847,617(052) |

NOTE:

1. There is a difference of 268,602 persons between the classified population of India by Religions and the total given in column 1 of this table. The difference is limited to the figures of Punjab and has arisen because the enumeration records relating to these persons were destroySd by fire which broke out in the Census Tabulation Office at Jullundar.
2. The proportions have been worked out by excluding 268,602 persons for which classification of different religions in not available.